

SUMY REGIONAL BICYCLE MOVEMENT

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Today all over the world much attention is paid to development of bicycle traffic not only as sport, but also as means of transport in the modern city. First of all it gives purity of environment, and as a result – improving of health of the population. Sumy city must also be convenient for moving by bicycle, but under conditions of infrastructure, which was established in the Soviet period, solving of this problem is not an easy task; moreover the problem of bicycle safety control is quite important. It must be solved in such a way, that bicyclists should become the third full members of the road traffic.

Road traffic accidents have become, for instance, the main reason of death of young people of 15-29 years. All over the world more than 85 % of deaths at the road fall on the countries with low and average income level. Almost a half of fatal accidents happen with the participation of pedestrians and bicyclists. Millions of people become disabled for life. Road accidents occupy much necessary resources of health service, usage of which is required for solving of other problems in the society. If the measures concerning road traffic injuries are not taken by 2020, number of road accidents will increase over 65 % according to the forecast of experts. That is why the United Nations Organization has declared Road Safety Action Decade 2011-2020.

We want to perform system steps, which lie in formation of the safest routes to the central part of the city from all city districts, which will help Sumy recreational athletes to move safe along the streets of region centre using ecologically clean means of transport – bicycle.

In January 2012 working group for development and application of program “Dva Kolesa” (**“Two Wheels”**) was created in Sumy. It is made up of Sumy municipal charity fund “Za Chyste Misto” (**“For Clean City”**), represented by head **Serhii Maliuk**, Sumy regional foundation “**Association of Red Cross of Ukraine**”, represented by chief **Ihor Shapoval**, social organization “**Initiative Forum of Sumy region**”, represented by chairman of board **Anatolii Radchenko**, active participant of bicycle traffic, resident of Sumy city – **Viacheslav Mykhailyk**.

At the first stage of work the tasks were discussed and the field of work was determined on the website of fund “Za Chyste Misto” (“For Clean City”) and on the municipal bicycle internet forum. As a result of such work we suggested for discussion four really possible bicycle routes. The presentation of these ideas was carried out at the press conference of the press centre “Sumynews” on 01.03.2012. It is made as a sketch-map of the city with routes, plotted on it. In the process of their preparation we have taken into account the information about road accidents, provided by Municipal Administration of the State Automobile Inspection, a representative of which took part in the press conference. Besides, we considered peculiarities of Sumy streets with their wide pavements and so-called “parking bays” for traffic in the process of preparation of safe routes. On 12.03.2012 in the studio of Sumy regional state television and radio broadcasting company live program took place with participation of working group for development and application of program “Two Wheels”. Today the opinion poll is held within citizen, concerning necessity of realization of this program. It is held by Sumy municipal charity fund “Za Chyste Misto” (“For Clean City”) and Sumy regional organization “Association of Red Cross of Ukraine”.

In fact, such understanding in the problems of environment protection can be traced in the joint activity not for the first time. For instance – carrying out of “round table” on December 23, 2011 in Sumy press club, concerning “Traffic Load and Ecological State of Air in Sumy”. Moreover, the National Associations of Red Cross and Half Moon were recognized as partners in Traffic Safety Improving Resolution (UN Resolution 64/255), adopted by United Nations Organization in March 2010. Discussion of creation of bicycle paths continues on bicycle forum in Internet. In perspective, we are going to create long-term program and to propose it for consideration in the Municipal Council. Cost carry for this program can be performed according to the approach of joint participation of interested organizations. As the pilot project out working group suggests creation of reversible bicycle path at Kurskyi Avenue on the straightway 3 km long, starting from entry to the city to the bridge crossing railway lines. Route traffic is supposed to be without drive on the roadway. After consulting at engineering company and approximate calculation of expenses with traffic experts the required sum amounts to 1 million 40 thousand UAH by estimate.

Critical moment begins – involvement of municipal authorities, charity, social, commercial organizations, international institutes in economic expenses for solving of ecological problems of the city.

The targets are proved: purity of environment, health of citizens, traffic safety, road amenity, uniqueness of future project, and, due to compactness of municipal design, possibility to loop all bicycle routes.

It is high time to make European choice!